

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following Abstract to the specification on a new page following last page of the specification.

ABSTRACT

An improved method of controlling topological variations when milling a cross-section of a structure, which can be used to reduce topological variation on a cross-section of a write-head in order to improve the accuracy of metrology applications. Topological variation is reduced by using a protective layer that comprises a material having mill rates at higher incidence angles that closely approximate the mill rates of the structure at those higher incidence angles. Topological variation can be intentionally introduced by using a protective layer that comprises a material having mill rates at higher incidence angles that do not closely approximate the mill rates of the structure at those higher incidence angles.